

HOUSE BILL 706

By Whitson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, relative to dual enrollment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) As used in this section, "eligible high school" means a high school that:

(1) Is located in any county that has:

(A) A population of not less than one hundred eighty-three thousand one hundred (183,100) nor more than one hundred eighty-three thousand two hundred (183,200), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census; and

(B) An average student ACT score of 23 or higher; and

(2) Has signed into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a state community college that:

(A) Is located in any county having a population of not less than one hundred eighty-three thousand one hundred (183,100) nor more than one hundred eighty-three thousand two hundred (183,200), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census; and

(B) Allows a high school student to take a combination of up to sixty-one (61) hours of dual credit and dual enrollment courses during the student's academic day that will result in the student receiving an Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) in Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology (A.i.i.T.) upon completion of high school.

(b) A high school student enrolled in an eligible high school who is also enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution to receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) in Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology (A.i.i.T.) shall be eligible to participate in the two-year pilot program for tuition assistance if the student:

(1) Is enrolled in an eligible high school;

(2) Is not ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;

(3) Is a Tennessee resident and has been a Tennessee resident, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application for the tuition assistance or for the renewal of the tuition assistance;

(4) Is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as a dual enrollment student pursuant to § 49-4-930; and

(5) Makes application for the two-year pilot program for tuition assistance.

(c) Tuition assistance awarded under this section shall commence with the 2017-2018 academic year.

(d) TSAC, in consultation with the eligible high school and state university community college, shall create an application and selection process for students applying for tuition assistance pursuant to this pilot program.

(e) Courses for which tuition assistance is received may be taken at any time during the student's sophomore, junior, or senior year in high school.

(f) No more than eighty (80) students shall be awarded the two-year tuition assistance in each year of the pilot program. No more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) shall be expended from the lottery for education account to fund the pilot program.

(g) Tuition assistance provided for a state community college shall be the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the state community college attended less all other gift aid. Gift aid shall be credited first to the student's tuition and mandatory fees.

(h) A student who receives tuition assistance pursuant to this section for one (1) semester shall reapply for tuition assistance for the student's next semester of attendance at the eligible postsecondary institution. To be eligible for the assistance beyond the first semester of receipt, the student shall continue to meet all eligibility requirements for the grant and shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 for all postsecondary courses attempted under this section.

(i) Courses attempted as a dual enrollment student under this section shall not count toward the limitation under § 49-4-913 on the receipt of a HOPE scholarship.

(j) If a dual enrollment student enrolls in an eligible public postsecondary institution after graduation from high school, then such institution shall not deny credit toward an associate or baccalaureate degree for any college course taken as a dual enrollment student if the student successfully completed the course. If the course was not taken at the institution in which the student enrolls after graduation from high school, the course shall qualify for transfer credit.

(k) No retroactive award of tuition assistance shall be made under this section.

(l)

(1) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, with the assistance of the department of education and the higher education commission, shall review and study the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of the program in closing the high tech skills gap and increase the number of students obtaining postsecondary degrees. The study shall conclude at the end of the two-year pilot program. OREA shall

report the findings and conclusions of the study to the speakers of the senate and the house of representatives and the chairs of the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives.

(2) If OREA, in consultation with the higher education commission and the department of education, finds that the results of the two-year pilot program are promising, but that more study needs to be done before a final recommendation is issued, then the eligible high school and state community college are authorized to continue the pilot program for an additional two (2) years, if funded.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students who apply for the tuition assistance program beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.